**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a future application. Please amend claims 1, 11, 36 and 37. A clean version of the amended claims follows:

--1. (3x amended) A method for evaluating the ability of a compound to inhibit neurotoxicity which comprises:

(a) contacting a cell which overexpresses (i) a receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE) protein and (ii) a mutant presenilin-2 protein with the compound,

wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a neuronal cell, an endothelial cell, a glial cell, a microglial cell, an astrocyte, a neuronal tumor cell, a PC12 cell, a mononuclear cell, a mononuclear phagocyte, a smooth muscle cell, a bone marrow cell and a myocyte, and

wherein the mutant presenilin-2 protein causes increased basal apoptosis in nerve growth factor-differentiated PC12 cells;

(b) adding amyloid-beta peptide to the cell

culture to induce cell death;

(c) determining the level of cell death in the cell culture; and

(d) comparing the level of cell death determined in step (c) with the amount determined in the absence of the compound so as to evaluate the ability of the compound to inhibit neurotoxicity.--

--11.(2X amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound which inhibits neurotoxicity in a cell by inhibiting interaction between receptor for advanced glycation endproduct and mutant presenilin-2 identified by the method of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--36.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA encodes human RAGE.--

--37.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA encodes N141 mutant presenilin-2.--

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5, 11, 12, 34-37 were pending. Claim 2 was canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 11, 36 and 37 were amended to more